

grown to know her attention to detail, knowledge of many issues, and personal touch that should not go unrecognized. Her dedication to the Sixth District of Missouri has shown through over the past few months, which is evident by the appreciation of all she works with.

It is unfortunate for countless people that Bethany will be leaving the House of Representatives, as she has left her unique stamp on many. I, as well as my office, wish Bethany the very best in her future career with Senator KAY BAILEY HUTCHINSON.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Bethany Smith for her many important contributions to myself, my staff, all those she has worked with on the Hill, and for all those she has served. She will be missed by many.

REGARDING THE NEBRASKA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

HON. TOM OSBORNE

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tremendously positive contributions of teachers across the state of Nebraska. Our teachers are hard-working, dedicated public servants who serve on the front lines of our society. I have worked extensively with the Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA) as well as the National Education Association (NEA). I have worked closely with the NSEA and its educator-members and the NEA here in Washington on many issues of mutual concern. Teaching is the most important job in the world. Our teachers deserve our appreciation and respect.

PENINSULA SINAI CONGREGA- TION'S 36TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Peninsula Sinai Congregation on the occasion of its 36th Anniversary. From its humble beginnings the Peninsula Sinai Congregation has grown to include 252 member families in Foster City, California, located in my Congressional District and has become an integral part of the community's social and moral fabric.

In 1967, four pioneers organized the first meeting of the Peninsula Sinai Congregation in a San Mateo church. As the population of the congregation increased it was forced to move, first to the Peninsula JCC and later to its own facility in Foster City, California in 1979. At that time there was one small building that included an education wing comprised of four classrooms, a kitchen and the Col. David J. Reina Memorial Library. Five years later the facility was expanded to include a sanctuary/social hall and as well as administrative offices. Finally in May 2000, the Congregation completed a substantial remodeling, which included the creation of a dedicated sanctuary, a lounge, a full catering kitchen as

well as additional classrooms and an expansion of the library.

Mr. Speaker, from four pioneers the Sinai Peninsula Congregation is now a full service religious center, providing a Jewish education for its members from cradle to grave. In addition to Hebrew school programs for children in grades 3–10, the Congregation has a very active Adult education program. This program includes "How to" instruction about rituals and holidays, as well as Adult Bar and Bat Mitzvah opportunities for adult members who had not yet experienced this celebrated rite of passage.

Mr. Speaker, the Peninsula Sinai Congregation also hosts an annual Chen Shapira Memorial Concert as its major fundraiser for the Chen Shapira Jewish Culture Fund. This fund is named after the late Chen Hayim Shapira who was born in Israel but emigrated to San Francisco in 1965, and dedicated his life to broadening Jewish education and promoting Jewish and Israeli music and culture in the Bay Area. Although Mr. Shapira passed away in 2000, this fund continues his work by supporting positive Jewish cultural awareness.

Mr. Speaker, in the Jewish tradition the number 18, called "chai," is considered lucky, and since 36 is 18 doubled, the number 36 is known as "double chai" is also considered lucky. Therefore, on the celebration of the Peninsula Sinai Congregation's double chai anniversary, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Peninsula Sinai Congregation on its extraordinary growth and wish the congregation continued successes in the future.

IMPROVING THE COMMUNITY SERVICES BLOCK GRANT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3030) to amend the Community Service Block Grant Act to provide for quality improvements:

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Chairman, I would like to further extend my remarks from the Debate on H.R. 3030 on February 4 2004. In my remarks on H.R. 3030, Mr. BOEHNER and I discussed portions of the 1972 debate addressing the 702 exemption of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The following provides more in-depth explanations of Senator Ervin and Senator Allen's comments in 1972 regarding this issue. Please insert these comments at the end of my remarks or appropriate place regarding this debate.

I believe it is important to consider the rest of the 1972 legislative history on the amendment to the 702 exemption of Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and to discuss the comments of the lead proponents of the 1972 amendment to the 702 exemption of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, Senators Sam Ervin (D-NC) and James Allen (D-AL). You will find that these senators rallied support for broadening this exemption by citing examples of religious institutions that they said did not receive federal financial aid, but were supported by private funds. It underscores my point

about the difference between discrimination with private funds and discrimination with taxpayer funds.

I recommend for the House's consideration an article that will be published soon entitled, Religion-based Employment Decisions and Federally Funded Jobs: Congressional Debate, Law and Policy, written by Melissa Rogers, Visiting Professor of Religion and Public Policy at Wake Forest University. Rogers is former executive director of the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life and former general counsel of the Baptist Joint Committee, and she has spent a lot of time working on this issue.

Rogers writes: "It is true . . . that [Senators Ervin and Allen, the prime proponents of the 1972 amendment to the 702 exemption of Title VII] considered an institution-wide exemption for religious organizations from Title VII to be crucial to religious autonomy and freedom. It is often recalled, for example, that Senator Ervin repeatedly said that his amendment was designed 'to take the political hands of Caesar off of the institutions of God, where they have no place to be.'

"But what has not been recalled," Rogers notes, "is that, in his argument for allowing religious organizations to make religion-based employment decisions institution-wide, Senator Ervin repeatedly used an example of a religious institution from his home state that, as he stressed, '[was] not supported in any respect by the Federal Government,' but by religious adherents."

Specifically, Senator Ervin said the following:

"We have a college in North Carolina known as Davidson College that is affiliated with the Southern Presbyterian Church. Davidson College is supported by the fees of its students and by the voluntary contributions of people interested in its activities. It is not supported in any respect by the Federal Government . . .

This college was founded and is controlled by people who believe in giving a Christian education to the students of the institution . . . [It has] a regulation, which says that any person who is chosen to be a full professor at the institution shall be a member of an Evangelical Christian Church . . ."

Senator Ervin then asked Senator Allen, his colleague and supporter: Is there "anything immoral or ought [there] to be anything illegal in people who support a college devoted to giving a Christian education taking steps to assure that the youth who attend it should be instructed on any subject, whether religious or nonreligious, by teachers who are members of a Christian church?" And, in response to a question later in the debate, Ervin emphasized again that Davidson College was "supported by fees of the students and voluntary gifts of people who believe in giving the kind of education this institution gives."

Senator Allen echoed this argument in his own statements. He commented: "Under our system of religious freedom, which would be violated by this EEOC bill, religious organizations have seen fit to use their own resources to establish church schools at every level of education—elementary, secondary, and institutions of higher education. They did so because they wanted youth taught in a religious atmosphere and by Christian instructors." Senator Allen also quoted Senator Ervin stating: "[I]f the members of the Presbyterian Church, or the members of the Catholic